

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price

District 3 Slate

June 2009

Third District, County of San Diego



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Heat of Fire Season Makes Its Return

County and state firefighting resources are at an acute state of alert as the arrival of summer brings with it the increased threat of a devastating wildfire.

"I cannot stress often enough: Each and every homeowner in this county, especially those who live near canyons or other fire-prone areas, must be proactive in their efforts to minimize the danger of wildfire,"

explained Vice Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price. "You need to have a 100 feet of defensible space around a residence that abuts an open area. This means vegetation must be reduced, gutters cleared of dead leaves and pine needles, palm trees trimmed, and combustible materials moved away so that, if fire approaches, it does not have a willing source to feed upon and grow in strength."

Cal Fire, which the county contracts with to provide firefighting support in the rural areas, has upgraded its 39 engines to a staff of four per shift. It has two air tankers based in Ramona and another two nearby in Hemet. The county's two firefighting helicopters are ready for action.

In addition to the more than two dozen fire engines and water tankers purchased by

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State Budget Mess Is Impacting SD County

As their efforts to approve a balanced fiscal budget by the July 1 deadline continue on schedule, county leaders are keeping a close eye on the Legislature in Sacramento, where state leaders are grappling with a new deficit exceeding \$24 billion.

Said Vice Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price: "While we have been forced to readjust staffing and programs to meet economic reality, the County of San Diego continues to balance the budget. And, while the clouds are dark, we know the county will weather

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CLEAN EFFORT

Vice Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price presents the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District's "Clean Air Award" to Poway Valley Collision. Receiving the honor are the owners, Jim and Debbie Faaborg, and the business managers, Jim and Mary Francella.



DEDICATION IS APPRECIATED...

Vice Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price presented plaques recognizing the volunteer efforts of three longtime supporters of the San Dieguito River Park. Joining Vice Chairwoman Slater-Price are, from left, Tom Brown, Westley Lagerburg and Chuck Anderson. The awards were given to honor volunteers who gave countless hours to the San Dieguito River Park project. When completed, the park will provide a network of trails stretching from the coast at Del Mar east to Volcan Mountain near Julian.

twitter

STAY INFORMED...

Get direct messages on the latest goings-on with Vice Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price by following her Twitter updates. Announcements include breaking news updates and important decisions affecting one's quality-of-life. Twitter is a concise, 140-character (or less) update that can be sent directly to a Blackberry or iPhone. Sign up at www.twitter.com/PamSlaterPrice.

AROUND AND ABOUT IN THE THIRD DISTRICT

News of Note

June Is Time For Felines

Due to a seasonal influx of animals, the county's three animal shelters are inundated with cats and will be waiving adoption fees for cats one year and older through June. In addition, the "Better with a Buddy" program allows a person to adopt one cat or kitten under one year at the full price of \$58 and adopt a second cat or kitten for half price.



The goal is to have 500 felines adopted in June, which is National Adopt-A-Cat month. Each person adopting a cat or kitten will be given a special gift package, which could include water bottles, cat toys or a calendar, while supplies last.

All animals will be neutered or spayed, microchipped and vaccinated prior to going home with their new family. Animals unable to be altered at the time of adoption require a \$40 refundable sterilization deposit. To view photos of adoptable animals, visit the county website at www.sddac.com/adoptions.asp.

Mussel Quarantine Begins

The annual quarantine on sport-harvested mussels for human consumption has been put into effect by the state after testing detected elevated levels of domoic acid. The quarantine is usually in effect from May 1 to Oct. 31 along the California coast, and is issued to prevent paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) and domoic acid poisoning due to marine biotoxins that accumulate in shellfish. The quarantine applies to sport-harvested mussels.

Medfly Found in Mira Mesa

Mira Mesa residents are asked to remove homegrown fruit and vegetables following the discovery of three adult Mediterranean fruit flies, the highly destructive insect known to infect more than 260 plant species. County and state officials will conduct intensive trapping in an 81-square-mile radius where the fruit flies were found. The Medfly discovery instituted a quarantine in the Mira Mesa area for potentially infected fruit and veggies.



SACRIFICE HONORED

All five members of the county Board of Supervisors (above) joined various representatives from public safety to dedicate the San Diego County Law Enforcement Memorial, located on the west side of the County Administration Building at 1600 Pacific Highway. The memorial honors law enforcement officers who gave their lives in the line of duty. The \$310,000 memorial is composed of three glass panels – each 5 feet wide and 4 feet tall and weighing about 1,300 pounds. It is illuminated at night to make the names of 80 fallen officers etched into the glass. The Board voted to build the memorial on county property.

Stimulus Funds Allow Region To Maintain, Improve Roads, Bridges

As a result of federal stimulus funding, the region is receiving \$9.6 million in additional TransNet funding that will be applied to road infrastructure projects throughout the region.

Several roads will be repaired or resurfaced with rubberized asphaltic concrete (RAC). Seven concrete bridges will be resurfaced. Culverts will be repaired to improve drainage.

The work will significantly extend the useful life of county roads, in many cases by as much as 15 to 20 years. Resurfacing not only adds resilience, extending the life of the pavement, it also improves

traction and reduces road noise. Made of recycled tire material, the rubberized concrete offers environmental benefits because it keeps used tires out of landfills.

The repair of culverts will help control storm runoff and convey it beneath roads, as opposed to flowing across the roadway, which will help ensure that roads are open and passable during inclement weather.

The bridge sealing project will extend the useful life of the affected bridges, provide long-term cost savings for infrastructure, and improve safety for those crossing the channels and canyons in San Diego County.

AROUND AND ABOUT IN THE THIRD DISTRICT

LINK REOPENS IN COUNTY TRAIL SYSTEM



Vice Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price and former county planning commissioner David Kreitzer (above) snip the ribbon marking the long-awaited opening of the David Kreitzer Lake Hodges Bicycle Pedestrian Bridge that parallels Interstate 15 between Rancho Bernardo and Escondido. A trio of four-legged friends (left) were among those who marked the opening of the bridge. The bridge spans Lake Hodges and is part of the San Dieguito River Park. Enjoying a casual stroll along the trail leading to the bridge were Vice Chairwomen Slater-Price (above left) and county Planning Commissioner Peder Norby. The David Kreitzer Lake Hodges Bicycle Pedestrian Bridge is the longest stress ribbon bridge in the world. The dedication took place May 15.

AROUND THE THIRD DISTRICT

FIRE

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the County of San Diego and staffed by the various trained volunteer agencies in the back country, Cal Fire has 19 16-member hand crews ready to respond to any threat.

The County of San Diego is also prepared to bring in additional aerial firefighting support. The aerial assets will be activated if and when necessary.

“By being prepared now, we limiting the risk of loss of property and life in case a wildfire strikes,” said Vice Chairwoman Slater-Price. “Simple steps, such as having an escape plan the whole family knows by heart, is key.

“Firefighters can do only so much to defend a property when winds are driving walls of fire across dry fields or up an overgrown canyon full of flammable debris. There are many areas in this county, including several in the Third District, that have not burned for years, even decades. Every step taken to reduce the elements that feed fire is an important step taken to protect our county from repeating the terrible agony we suffered during the '03 and '07 wildfires.”

FINANCIAL

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this economic storm while providing the necessary services that protect and enhance the quality of life of all residents.”

What concerns the Board of Supervisors, said Vice Chairwoman Slater-Price, is how state cutbacks will impact the county, as well as a recommendation the state “borrow” millions of dollars in tax revenue from the county to bring its budget into alignment.

“What worries me the most is the state cutting these programs and then expecting the local governments to pick up the difference,” said Vice Chairwoman Slater-Price.

“This after raiding our revenue. We simply do not have the money.”

The ultimate solution, said Vice Chairwoman Slater-Price, is for government at all levels - local, state and federal - to make cuts and the difficult decisions elected representatives are chosen to make. They must honestly evaluate how it is providing services and to see if their is a better, more efficient, more cost-effective way.

“I am proud of the innovation we have



UP ON THE ROOF...

A worker scales the steeply pitched roof at the Del Mar Library as renovations to the structure continue. The Del Mar Library now has a new roof and a new community room. The roof replacement and community room addition were championed by Vice Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price and partially funded through county dollars directed by the Vice Chairwoman.

embraced at the County of San Diego,” she said.

“We are using technology to bring more services to more people. It is not spending more to do more. It is providing the necessary services residents expect with professionalism and commitment.

“We are in an era in which government is re-examining itself and its role in society. I believe good things will come out of this self-assessment.”

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